“Going Green …... Together” Pacific Region’s 79th Annual Convention

“Going Green …... Together,” the 79th Annual Convention of Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc., was held April 17 - 20, 2023 at the Lynnwood Embassy Suites by Hilton. The convention team members, Brynn Tavasci, Diane Franchini, Dorrie Carr, Terry Critchlow, and Jeanette Pruin, worked together to provide an educational, creative, and fun gathering that everyone could enjoy. Our own Lana Finegold, PRGC Director 2021 - 2023 cheered us on.

The pre-convention evening banquet featured “Fairy Tales from the Garden,” a collection of humorous skits, with PRGC members playing the parts. All costumes were created using recycled materials, in the spirit of “Going Green - Together.”

Our lunch speaker on Tuesday was Bellevue Botanical Garden Director, James Gagliardi, who previously served as a supervisory horticulturist at the Smithsonian Gardens in Washington DC. Tuesday workshops included “Engaging Our Future Gardeners”, presented by our Pacific Region Youth Team, and a hands-on workshop creating collages from recycled materials lead by Diane Franchini and Brynn Tavasci. All who participated took home their own work of art. Our evening design banquet, “Putting on Another Hat,” by Tory Bennett, who indeed wears many hats, was presented with enthusiasm, inspiring us with her creative talents.

Wednesday’s lunch speaker was NW Garden Expert Marianne Binetti, who presented her program, “Our Changing Gardens and Aging Gardeners.” The afternoon workshop was “Making Versatile Corsages,” lead by state corsage chairman, Tory Bennett. The evening awards banquet was followed by installation of our new Pacific Region Director, Carol Norquist, from Alaska, and her officers. Carol’s theme is “Unleash the Wild in Your Garden - Bring Nature Home.”

A colorful tour of Roozengarde and Tulip Town Tulip Fields, delicious lunch at the LA Conner Civic Club House, and tour of the Fiber Arts Museum and the La Conner Waterfront was held Thursday, arranged and lead by Terry Critchlow.

Many thanks are given to those who provided educational displays; Madeline West, Linda Haas, Dorrie Carr, Kathy Cole, PRGC Youth Team, Carol Norquist, and Tanja Swanson, and the districts that donated opportunity drawing and silent auction items. Centerpieces and table favors were provided by Brynn Tavasci, Avant Designers, Diane Franchini, Judy Strickland, and Illahee Garden Club. Beautiful Invitationals were provided by Tory Bennett, Mitch Grospe, Barbara Smith, Debbie Spiller, and Linda Maida. Extra special shoutouts to LeAnna McMahan, Yolanda Nelson, and Connie Keen for helping in many ways, above and beyond. Everyone on Team Tavasci thanks everyone who lent a hand.

Brynn Tavasci